



July 2006

E-Newsletter

Welcome to Issue #8:

Inside Transportation News is a vehicle for sharing relevant information with transportation and planning professionals and other National Park Service partners.

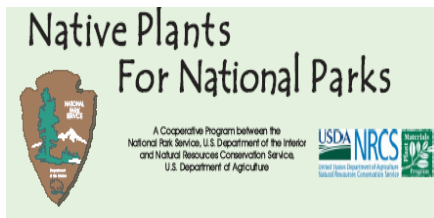
Request for Nominations for Scenic Byways Awards – Jennifer Getz, National Park Service



The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) has announced the call for [2007 Scenic Byway Awards](#) for projects of excellence and outstanding leadership. Specifically, the awards seek to recognize byways projects that exemplify community involvement and public outreach, partnerships, innovation, and advancement of the goals of a byway's corridor management plan. The 2007 awards will also recognize an outstanding individual, organization, or agency that has demonstrated exceptional byway leadership.

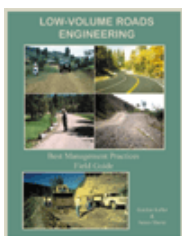
Parks with scenic byways may submit up to two applications, one in the leadership category and the other in one of eight different project categories. **Applications are due by July 17, 2006 through the state departments of transportation coordinators** who will then forward the applications on to AASHTO. If you have any questions regarding the nomination process, please contact jennifer_getz@nps.gov

Interagency Plant Materials Program Report – Russ Haas, National Park Service



The [2005 Plant Materials Centers report](#) covers the progress of the cooperative project agreements between the National Park Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly the Soil Conservation Service). Most of the work (75%) involves the development of native plant materials for road restoration projects. This document contains annual summary reports for projects at 27 park units.

Low-Volume Roads Engineering Best Management Practices Field Guide – Gordon Keller and James Sherar, U.S. Forest Service



The U.S. Forest Service has developed a [best practices manual](#) that presents recommended practices for the design and construction of low-volume roads. The information is intended to help planners, engineers, road managers and resource specialists build better roads in an environmentally sensitive and cost-effective way. Organized to address the most basic roads issues in as simple a manner as possible, the guide includes "do's" and "don'ts" along with relevant design information. It also contains a list of selected references arranged by topic for additional information.

New Online Edition of Toolbox Available – American Recreation Coalition



A second version of the "[Toolbox for the Great Outdoors](#)" is available online to help public land managers and partners, including nonprofit organizations, identify new mechanisms for generating the resources needed to provide quality visitor services. The updated Toolbox has expanded the number of "drawers," or categories, and contains dozens of new examples of the successful use of these tools at recreation sites.

Final Report on SAFETEA-LU Planning Provisions Workshop

The Federal Highway Administration and the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) jointly sponsored a workshop held on March 27-28, 2006, in Phoenix, Arizona. The focus of the workshop was a detailed review of nine planning provisions included in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). Successful state practices were also highlighted. The full workshop proceedings are included in the [final report](#), along with other guidance documents and listings of resources.

Executive Summary: Representation of Transit ITS in Network-Based Travel Models – Scott Smith, Volpe National Transportation Systems Center



This report focuses on the impacts of four widely-used intelligent transportation systems (ITS) technologies on the transit planning process. Improved traveler information is one of the technologies discussed. Real-time information is now possible through automated phone systems and sign boards, the Internet, and hand-held devices. For more information about the impacts of traveler information and other ITS technologies, read the [executive summary](#).

Transportation Management Program Establishes Transit Workgroup – Michael Morelli, National Park Service

The National Park Service has established a transit workgroup to develop multi-modal transportation system asset management goals, objectives, performance measures, and associated business practices. The workgroup will identify and define critical information needed to consistently evaluate and report on life-cycle asset management and cost of ownership for visitor transportation systems. This asset information will significantly improve investment decisionmaking and assist in prioritizing future operations and maintenance expenditures and capital reinvestment needs for park transit systems. Members of the National Park Service work group include staff from the Washington Office, Intermountain Region's facility management and Federal Lands Highway Program coordinators, and representatives from the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center. For additional information, please contact michael_morelli@nps.gov

Inside Transportation News reflects a compilation of research, reports, and opinions from a variety of authors and partners. The opinions, reports, and research may not reflect the policies and views of the National Park Service.